



Martha's Vineyard Commission

Annual Report

2012

This report summarizes the 2012 activities of the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

Last year, the Commission adopted the Wind Energy Plan for Dukes County, prepared a Site Design and Landscape Policy, and carried out several other important planning efforts for the Island and individual towns. These dealt with affordable housing, coastal planning, community planning, economic development, transportation, water quality, and wind energy. Many of them implement the community's objectives as expressed in the Island Plan. Forty-five development projects were referred to the MVC for regulatory review and the Commission revised its thresholds for determining what proposals should be referred to the MVC, the DRI Checklist.

The seventeen-member Commission is made up of nine Commissioners elected bi-annually to represent the public, and eight appointees – one each by the Governor, County Commission, and the six Vineyard Boards of Selectmen. The Commission is supported by a professional staff of ten.

More detail about the ongoing work of the MVC is available on the Commission's website: www.mvcommission.org.

Affordable Housing

The MVC supports a variety of affordable housing efforts.

- **Housing Needs Assessment:** Last year, the MVC and all six Island towns agreed to participate in and fund an Island-wide Housing Needs Assessment to provide current information for project planning and grant writing. The Study Committee selected a consultant who started work in September and submitted an interim report in December. The study should be completed by April 2013.
- **Community Development Block Grants:** The MVC assisted five towns' Boards of Selectmen with FY2013 Department of Housing and Community Development's CDBG Applications by drafting Community Development Strategies. The MVC also worked with town administrators to gather supplemental materials and coordinate public hearings for FY2013 CDBG Applications (prepared by Bailey Boyd Associates). In its nine years, this program provided almost 16 million dollars of forgivable zero-interest loans to about 300 income-qualified homeowners for critical home renovations and about 100 childcare subsidies.
- **General Support:** The MVC facilitates quarterly meetings of the Joint Affordable Housing Group, made up of town and non-profit community housing entities. Staff assists towns by providing legislative updates and information about federal and state programs, grant opportunities, and workshops. MVC staff also serves as technical advisor to the Vineyard's Community Development Advisory Committee and works in coordination with the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority.
- **Housing Trusts:** Staff assisted Chilmark, Oak Bluffs, and Tisbury with formalizing their Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund committees in conformance with state guidelines. In May, the MVC partnered with the Massachusetts Housing Partnership to host a workshop about how to use a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund.



Coastal, Ocean, and Hazard Planning

The MVC works with towns on planning coastal areas, ocean conservation and development and mitigating natural hazards that threaten the Island.

- **Coastal and Ocean Planning:** MVC worked with the towns and Commonwealth to secure federal "No Discharge Designation" for Vineyard waters. The MVC participates in federal (NEPA) and Commonwealth (MEPA) project reviews. The MVC Coastal Planner serves as the Governor's appointed representative for the MVC on the Massachusetts Ocean Advisory Commission, which continues involvement in the evolution of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan since adoption.
- **Hazard Management:** The MVC is working with the seven Dukes County emergency managers on an update of the Dukes County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, which must be renewed in 2013 to keep the towns eligible for FEMA funding of mitigation measures.

Community Planning

The MVC worked on a variety of planning efforts.

- **Site Design and Landscape Policy:** The MVC adopted a Site Design and Landscape Policy that gives guidance about laying out and landscaping properties. Prepared in collaboration with the Polly Hill Arboretum, it will be used in MVC DRI project review and is available for use by town boards, non-profit organizations, and members of the public.
- **Community Character and Planning:** MVC staff provided technical assistance to the Town of Chilmark in drafting a new residential bylaw that seeks to ensure that new buildings harmonize with community character by requiring project review for large projects and setting upper floor space limits. Staff provided technical assistance to the Town of West Tisbury for its Master Plan revision with respect to mapping, socio-economic data, and preparing for a residents' survey.

Economic Development

The Commission's mandate includes promoting a sound local economy.

- **ArtsMV:** MVC staff provided support to the Martha's Vineyard Arts and Culture Collaborative, playing a major role in preparing the *Martha's Vineyard's Arts and Culture Planning Report*. Last October, ArtsMV collaborated with Cape Cod to promote *Fall for the Arts*, a variety of events including a Creative Economy Speaker Series.
- **Data Collection and Outreach:** The MVC provides the towns, business community and public with economic and demographic information from federal and state sources and with legislative updates and information about federal and state programs, grant opportunities, and workshops relating to economic development or tourism. Each year, MVC staff responds to more than 400 requests for economic and demographic information from town boards, businesses, individuals and non-profit organizations. The MVC also serves as an affiliate to the state's Data Center through the UMASS's Donahue Institute. The MVC worked with the South Eastern Economic Development Corporation and other partners to sponsor free entrepreneurial

workshops. The MVC, Chamber of Commerce, and Cape and Islands Workforce Investment Board work together to implement state Workforce Development Initiatives.



GIS

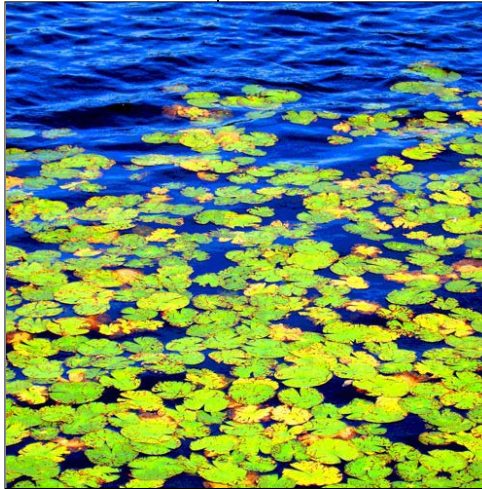
The MVC geographic information systems staff provides spatial analysis and cartographic production to aid MVC and town planning efforts, including custom cartographic services to towns, organizations, and individuals.

- **Data Updates and Distribution:** The MVC maintains and continuously updates a county-wide GIS data warehouse and provides data to towns, consulting groups working on town projects, academics conducting research, state agencies, and local residents. The Island-wide trails and open space data received a major update last year with trail updates acquired through GPS fieldwork conducted by the MVC or an Island conservation group.
- **Software Installation and Training:** MVC staff provided technical support for the County's Island-wide GIS software contract, including installation of a basic dataset. All Island towns and the MVC are partners in this agreement providing unlimited GIS software licensing at a fixed fee. Technical support to towns included software installs, on-site training, twice-monthly GIS how-to sessions, and technical support via phone and email.

Transportation

The MVC is responsible for transportation planning on the Vineyard, in association with the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

- **Joint Transportation Committee:** The Commission facilitates the JTC, made up of appointees from each town and the County.
- **Transportation Improvement Projects:** Every year, the Vineyard gets federal and state funding for transportation improvement projects, coordinated and scheduled by the JTC. In May, MassDOT completed the FY2011 project, reconstruction of the Upper State Road sidewalk in Vineyard Haven. Last fall, MassDOT awarded a contract for the FY2012-4 project, the Oak Bluffs Roundabout, and survey work started at the end of the year; construction is scheduled for March 2013 and it should be operational by Memorial Day, with landscaping to be completed next fall.
- **Drawbridge:** The MVC facilitates the Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee, which worked with the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury boards and MassDOT to ensure that the design of the permanent drawbridge reflects community concerns. Last year, the MVC organized a series of meetings and prepared extensive comments on the landscape design. MassDOT finalized the plans and advertised for a contractor in December 2012.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee:** This JTC subcommittee meets monthly to plan improvements for cyclists and walkers such as plans to extend the Beach Road bike path to route around Five Corners and production of a cyclist pamphlet with map and safety rules. MVC staff assisted the local Mass in Motion effort with Bike/Walk-to-School Maps showing walker and bike friendly routes to Vineyard's schools.
- **Trails Planning:** Under a contract with the Land Bank, the MVC Trails Planner works on extensions to the Island's network of trails.
- **Data Collection:** The MVC conducted traffic counts at 65 locations in 2012. These are used to



help town boards and the MVC evaluate the transportation impacts of proposed development projects such as Developments of Regional Impact.

Water Quality

The Commission continued its scientific and community work related to help protect the Vineyard's water quality.

- **Massachusetts Estuaries Project:** The Commonwealth's MEP carries out detailed modeling to indicate the extent of water quality problems in coastal ponds and help identify the most cost-effective way to solve them. The MVC provides extensive water-quality testing and land use data analysis as a basis for the MEP studies. Last year, the Commission compiled detailed land use data for Tisbury Great Pond, Oak Bluffs Harbor, and the Upper and Lower Chilmark Pond watersheds. MVC staff compiled parcel data on land use (zoning, year-round versus seasonal use, number of buildings, tie-ins to town water and sewers, water usage, number of potential future buildings). The MEP presented its final report for Lagoon Pond in December and draft reports for Farm and Sengekontacket Ponds. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection determined Total Maximum Daily Loads for Farm Pond, Sengekontacket, and Lagoon Pond, setting the targets for nitrogen-reduction efforts. MVC staff worked with the joint Sengekontacket Pond Committee, the Lagoon Pond Committee, and the Tisbury Wastewater Committee to devise plans to address excess nitrogen.
- **Water Testing:** MVC staff took water samples of Katama, Pocha, Cape Pogue, Tisbury Great Pond, Oyster Pond, and Mill Brook, and assisted sampling of Edgartown Great and Chilmark Ponds.
- **Water Alliance and Associations:** The MVC Water Planner is an active participant in the Martha's Vineyard Water Alliance and all Island pond advisory committees.

Wind Energy

The Commission works with the towns and community to plan for wind energy development on land, and in state and federal ocean waters.

- **Wind Energy Plan for Dukes County:** The Commission and a work group comprised of representatives of all seven County towns, the Tribe, and community groups completed a multi-year effort to prepare a Wind Energy Plan for Dukes County, to guide the siting, erection and decommissioning of wind turbines on land and in the ocean. The Plan establishes the basis for town zoning and MVC review of DRI proposals, and looks at federal waters – beyond town or MVC regulatory authority – to help the community participate in planning there. The MVC adopted the Plan in October 2012.
- **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:** The MVC, towns and Tribe are members of the Massachusetts Task Force providing input into the federal government's plans for developing large offshore wind farms south of the Vineyard. The MVC helped coordinate meetings on the Vineyard with state representatives to guide this development. MVC staff reviewed and provided extensive comments on a number of complex matters concerning leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf.



DRI's

The Commission's review of Developments of Regional Impact generally results in considerable improvements to projects to mitigate their environmental, traffic, and other impacts.

- **Projects Reviewed:** In 2012, 45 projects were referred to the MVC, of which: 11 were approved with conditions, 13 were minor modifications remanded back to towns without DRI review, 5 were projects referred for "concurrence" reviews sent back

to towns without DRI review, 2 were previously approved DRI's returning for approval of aspects of their plans, 1 dealt with an easement between two DRI's, 1 was granted an extension, 3 were withdrawn, 4 are on hold at the applicant's request, and 4 are still under review. No applications were denied.

- **DRI Checklist:** The MVC made important revisions to the DRI Checklist, which determines which projects are referred by towns to the MVC for review. The revised Checklist was adopted last December and goes into effect next year. The Commission's GIS staff began work on an on-line interactive map allowing users to see if a parcel overlaps any DRI trigger regions.

DCPCs

Districts of Critical Planning Concern are designated by the Commission to afford additional protection to sensitive areas, supporting special town regulations.

- **Island Road District – Special Ways:** In February, the MVC amended the Special Ways Zone of the Island Road District, offering clarifications of text including the uses allowed by right.
- **Island Wind District:** In late 2012, the MVC extended interim regulations of the Island Wind District to allow adoption of individual regulations at town meetings. The MVC designated the District in 2009 to help regulate wind turbines and coordinated development of draft model regulations for use by towns.

Collaboration

The Commission facilitates collaboration on many fronts.

- **Education and Training:** The Commission hosted several courses and information sessions on topics of interest to town officials, the business community, and members of the general public including *Stormwater Management*, *Flood Insurance Rate Maps*, and *Site Plan Review*. The MVC sponsored two workshops on *Complete Streets* and hosted several webinars concerning bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and safety. It distributed to town boards an inventory of training materials from past workshops and webinars available for loan from the Commission. MVC staff attended the State's *Fourth Annual Conference on Regionalization*.
- **Inter-Regional Collaboration:** The MVC is an active member of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies where the executive directors of the Commonwealth's thirteen regional planning agencies meet monthly to discuss legislation and funding programs with senior Commonwealth officials, and to collaborate on many fronts. The Executive Director and staff periodically confer with their counterparts on the Cape and Nantucket, on technical issues and legislation affecting the Cape and Islands.
- **All-Island Board Meetings:** The MVC coordinates regular meetings of all Island Conservation Commissions and other groups to promote the exchange of ideas across town boundaries and provide informational opportunities with presentations and discussions of topics of shared interest.



Finances

The Commission's FY2012 income was \$1,236,046, of which 64% came from town assessments, 31% from grants and contracts, and 5% from other sources. Expenses were \$1,404,590 of which 48% was for salaries, 24% for salary-related costs, 14% for legal fees, and 14% for other expenses. The annual audit by an independent auditor showed fiscal soundness. The budget and financial statements are on the website.

Commissioners (A – Appointed; E – Elected; attendance out of 22 meetings unless otherwise noted)

Bill Bennett (Chilmark A; 4), **John Breckenridge** (Clerk-Treasurer, Oak Bluffs A; 23), **Christina Brown** (Edgartown E; 25), **Peter Cabana** (Tisbury E; 19), **Tim Carroll**-A, 9, **Dr. Martin Crane** (Governor A, 2), **Erik Hammarlund**, E, 22, **Fred Hancock** (Vice-Chairman, Oak Bluffs A; 25), **Lenny Jason** (County Commission A, 19), **Jim Joyce** (Edgartown A; 18), **Chris Murphy** (Chairman, Chilmark A; 24), **Katherine Newman** (Chairman, Planning Economic Development Committee, Aquinnah E; 18), **Nathaniel J. Orleans** (Tisbury A; 18), **Camille Rose** (Aquinnah A; 20), **E. Douglas Sederholm** (Chairman Land Use Planning Committee, Chilmark E; 26), **Brian Smith** (Clerk-Treasurer, West Tisbury A; 24), **Linda Sibley** (West Tisbury E; 23), **Holly Stephenson** (Tisbury E; 16)

Staff

Mark London, Executive Director; **Sheri Caseau**, Water Resources Planner; **Christine Flynn**, Affordable Housing and Economic Development Planner; **Paul H. Foley**, DRI Coordinator and Planner; **Curtis Schroeder**, Administrator **Chris Seidel**, GIS Analyst & Coordinator; **Donna Stewart**, Administrative Assistant; **Michael Mauro**, Transportation Planner; **Jo-Ann Taylor**, Coastal Planner, DCPC Coordinator; **William Veno**, Senior Planner

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES FOR TOWNS

Aquinnah

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Affordable Housing:** The MVC worked with the Aquinnah Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2013 CDBG Grant Application.
- **Economic & Demographic Data Updates:** The MVC provided specific economic and demographic information to the Planning Board.

Regulatory Activities

- **Districts of Critical Planning Concern:** The MVC worked with the Town to update the Aquinnah's regulations for the Town of Aquinnah, Coastal, Island Road, Gay Head Cliff Area, and Moshup Trail Districts. Aquinnah consistently reviews and updates its DCPC regulations and the MVC's involvement is to endorse the regulations, after public hearing, in order to authenticate the backing of the MVC's powerful legislated authority. Project review and day-to-day administration of the DCPC regulations remains with the Town.
- **DRI Review:** Of the 42 projects referred to the Commission, none were in Aquinnah.

Staff Liaison

- DCPC Coordinator Jo-Ann Taylor is the main staff liaison with the Aquinnah Planning Board.

Chilmark

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Economic & Demographic Data Updates:** The MVC provided specific economic and demographic information to the Planning Board, Board of Health and Library Committee.
- **Affordable Housing:** The MVC worked with the Chilmark Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2013 CDBG Grant

Application Staff continues to assist Chilmark with formalizing their Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committees in conformance with state guidelines.

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** The MVC produced maps to aid Chilmark's grant application for invasive species eradication within Squibnocket Pond. Maps of the Town's DCPC areas were also produced for the Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

Transportation

- **Trails Planning:** Working with the Land Bank, the MVC pursued trail opportunities at the Town landfill and secured public access to a trail linking Chilmark with West Tisbury.
- **Data Collection:** The MVC conducted traffic counts at five locations in Chilmark. The MVC conducted Turning Movement Counts (TMCs) at the Chilmark Store and the Chilmark Post Office.

Water Quality

- **Tisbury Great Pond:** The MVC received a grant from the Tisbury Great Pond Riparian Owners association for water quality sampling in Tisbury Great Pond targeted to the time period before and after an inlet is opened to the ocean. During 2012, two rounds of samples were collected from August through November. A total of eleven samples were collected from the Pond to assess changes in nitrogen concentration and salinity that will be used by the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) to determine the flushing characteristics of the system.
- **Chilmark Pond:** MVC staff processed six samples from the Pond to be used by the MEP to assess changes in nitrogen concentration and salinity. Staff assisted MEP staff in the deployment of tide gauge to determine the flushing characteristics of the system.
- **Mill Brook:** The MVC collected water samples from six stations in Mill Brook on six sampling rounds. This stream is a major contributor of fresh water and the nutrients it carries to Tisbury Great Pond.
- **Community Assistance:** The MVC Water Resource Planner serves as technical advisor to the

Squibnocket Ponds District Advisory Committee, the North Tabor Farm Committee, and the Tisbury Great Pond Riparian owners.

Regulatory Activities

- **DRI:** In 2012, one project (Allen Farm Estate Plan) was reviewed in Chilmark by the MVC through the DRI process. This project was a modification to a previous DRI and was reviewed as a full DRI with public hearings and was approved with conditions.

Staff Liaison

- Executive Director Mark London is the main staff liaison with the Chilmark Planning Board.

Edgartown

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Economic & Demographic Data Updates:** MVC staff assisted the Town Administrator and Tighebond Consulting with economic impact modeling to estimate economic impacts to jobs, wages, and business establishments, if Edgartown's downtown commercial area were flooded during peak season.
- **Affordable Housing:** The MVC worked with the Edgartown Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2013 CDBG Grant Application for about one million dollars. The MVC staff worked with the Affordable Housing Administrative Assistant to update Edgartown's Chapter 40B Subsidized Housing Inventory units. MVC staff prepared a draft outline of goals, objectives, roles, and responsibilities for the Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee's review.

Transportation

- **Trails Planning:** MVC staff worked with the Byways Committee and Water Department to propose a trail network plan for the Department's Wintucket property. The MVC also worked with the Conservation Committee to provide trail access for Muskoday Farm as part of a wider trail system. Another trail link on private property that will improve safety appears imminent.
- **Local Technical Assistance:** The MVC in cooperation with the Planning Board and MassDOT conducted a road safety audit along the segment of Upper Main Street between Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road and Curtis Lane, focusing on safety

issues at the intersections of Upper Main Street/Pinehurst Road, and Stop & Shop driveways.

- **Data Collection:** The MVC conducted traffic counts at 11 locations in Edgartown.

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** The MVC assisted town boards by producing a variety of maps such as the proposed historic district boundary, traffic accident locations, environmental inventory maps of an affordable housing site, and the Edgartown Lighthouse park area. GPS field collection of the Katama Bay aquaculture sites was conducted; maps and site coordinates were provided to the Shellfish Department. MVC staff GPSed the shoreline at Wasque Point throughout the year and prepared a series of shoreline change maps.
- **Software Support:** The MVC GIS staff upgraded the Planning Board Office's ArcGIS software to the most recent version.

Harbor Planning

- **Edgartown Harbor Plan:** MVC staff assisted the newly-reconstituted Marine Advisory Committee to prepare for update and renewal of the Edgartown Harbor Plan.

Regulatory Activities

- **DRI:** Of the ten Edgartown projects reviewed in 2012, two were full DRIs approved with conditions (Town Provision and Leaf Mixed Use), four were minor modifications remanded back to the Town without a hearing (Vineyard Golf Course, Kidder subdivision, Harborview Hotel, Leland condition), one was remanded back to the town without DRI review (Vineyard Arts). One was withdrawn (Morning Glory Farm events), one was granted an extension (Katama Airfield), and one is still under review (Chadwick Inn) and none were denied.
- **Legal Defense of Special Ways:** The MVC is collaborating with the Town of Edgartown to appeal a lower court decision vacating 2007 and 2008 actions by the Town and Commissioners to protect five old ways in Edgartown as Special Ways.

Water Quality

- **Water Sampling:** In cooperation with the Edgartown Shellfish Warden, water quality samples and on-station field data were collected from Katama, Cape Pogue, Pocha Pond and Oyster Pond. Assistance was given in water sample collection and field data collection in Edgartown Great Pond. These data form a baseline understanding of the ponds and

help determine whether the water quality goals from the Massachusetts Estuaries Project's study are achieved.

- **Coastal Ponds:** MVC staff is assisting the Planning Board and the Edgartown Ponds Advisory Committee to identify and evaluate options to achieve the nitrogen reduction called for by the MEP for the great ponds. The MVC worked with the Joint Edgartown and Oak Bluffs Sengekontacket Committee to identify potential areas for sewerage and to compile a list of recommendations from the MEP study that were presented to the Selectmen. The Water Resources Planner also participates in the Friends of Sengekontacket, Chappaquiddick Island Association, and the Vineyard Golf Club Review Committee.

Staff Liaison

- Senior Planner Bill Veno is the main staff liaison with the Edgartown Planning Board.

Oak Bluffs

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Affordable Housing:** MVC staff worked with the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2012 CDBG Grant Application for approximately \$900,000. Staff assisted Oak Bluffs with formalizing their Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee in conformance with state guidelines.
- **Economic and Demographic Data Updates:** The MVC provided specific economic and demographic information to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Board of Health.
- **Oak Bluffs Ad Hoc Fiscal Task Group:** MVC staff served as liaison to the Oak Bluffs Ad Hoc Fiscal Task Group.
- **Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Grant:** MVC staff assisted the Oak Bluffs Town Administrator in applying for a grant to conduct a Comprehensive Parking Management Study for the downtown commercial district.

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** MVC staff prepared an Oak Bluffs street map for the Town's Highway Department and Assessor's office. Maps were also provided to the Town's Emergency Manager.

- **Software Support:** MVC staff provided ArcGIS software installation to the Oak Bluffs Water Department.

Transportation

- **Roundabout:** The construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Barnes and the Edgartown – Vineyard Haven Roads (the Blinker) is scheduled to begin on March 1, 2013 and will be fully operational by Memorial Day 2013. Work will resume just after Labor 2013 to finish the aesthetic improvements and pavement markings. Project completion is scheduled the end of 2013. MVC staff has provided assistance to the design consultant and the Town.
- **Drawbridge:** The MVC facilitates the Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee. The MVC organized a meetings and prepared comments on landscape designs which allowed MassDOT to complete its plans in 2012. When permitting has been completed, it will advertise for construction.
- **Dukes County Avenue:** The MVC conducted extensive traffic counts and turning movement counts on eight different roads to gauge the traffic impacts to the Town's trial reconfiguration of making a portion of Dukes County Avenue one-way. MVC staff continues to work with the Roads and Byways Committee on the effects the change has on the surrounding neighborhoods.
- **Parking:** The MVC offered comments pertaining to the Town's investigation of metered parking and opportunities for parking areas at the perimeter of downtown.
- **Data Collection:** The MVC conducted traffic counts at 23 locations in Oak Bluffs.

Water Quality

- **Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP):** MVC staff continues to meet with Oak Bluffs officials to review the MEP Lagoon Pond study findings and discuss options. MVC staff is also meeting with the Friends of Farm Pond on the Tidal Restoration Project to implement the MEP recommendations.
- **Watershed Land Use Analysis:** The MVC provided analysis to the Mass Estuaries Project aggregating the land uses on parcels within the Oak Bluffs Harbor watershed, summing the number of existing buildings and estimating the number of future buildings within the watershed.
- **Groundwater Data:** The MVC continues to monitor the water table elevation in one observation well in Oak Bluffs on a monthly basis.

- **Community Assistance:** The MVC Water Resource Planner is an active member of the Joint Sengekontacket Committee, the Lagoon Pond Committee, and the Friends of Sengekontacket.

Regulatory Activities

- **DRI Review:** Of the ten projects located in Oak Bluffs that were referred to the Commission in 2012:
 - None were denied;
 - One was approved with conditions (MVTV New Building);
 - One was a minor modification of an existing DRI that remanded back to the town without DRI review (MVTV New Building modification);
 - One (Edgartown National Bank relocation) was a project referred to the MVC for a concurrence review that was sent back to the town without DRI review;
 - Two were a previously approved DRI returning to LUPC for approval of aspects of their plans (Roundabout bus pullouts and landscaping);
 - One (Oyster Bar Building demolition and reconstruction) was withdrawn before any decision was made;
 - One (Lagoon Ridge Subdivision) is on hold at the applicant's request; and
 - One project (Nova Vida/Alliance Church Expansion) is still under review.
- The Commission also dealt with an easement that was required between two DRI's (World Revival Church and MVTV).

Staff Liaison

- Economic Development and Affordable Housing Planner Christine Flynn is the main staff liaison with the Oak Bluffs Planning Board.

Tisbury

Coastal Management

- **Comcast Cable:** The MVC staff continues to participate in the Commonwealth's review of Comcast new cable connection proposed by to land on West Chop.

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Affordable Housing:** The MVC worked with the Tisbury Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2013 CDBG Grant Application Staff continues to assist Tisbury with formalizing their Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

Fund Committees in conformance with state guidelines. MVC staff provided a draft outline of goals and objectives as well as roles and responsibilities for the Tisbury Affordable Housing Committee's review.

- **Economic & Demographic Data Updates:** The MVC provided specific economic and demographic information to the Planning Board, Board of Health and Library Committee.

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** The MVC's GIS staff prepared a series of maps showing each parcel's neighborhood code for the Town's Assessor's Office.

Transportation

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning:** The MVC continued to work with Tisbury DPW and the Planning board to help advance two projects, including facilitating citizen input at a public meeting and looking at the possibility of getting state and federal funding.
 - Construction of a shared-use path (SUP) along Beach Road from the existing SUP at Wind's Up Watersports to Saltwater Restaurant and other bicycle and pedestrian improvements extending to Five Corners, and
 - Options to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, motor vehicles, and parking along Skiff Avenue, including improving bicycling conditions of this designated Bike Route.

The MVC also helped town boards the planning and development of a Shared Use Path (SUP) over private property between Lagoon Pond Road and Beach Road, and continuing on to Winds Up along Beach Road.

- **State Road Sidewalk:** Following a serious accident in Vineyard Haven, the JTC worked with MassDOT to reprioritize funding and reconstruct sidewalk on State Road from Camp Street to Pine Tree Road. The project was completed in spring 2012.
- **Drawbridge:** The MVC facilitates the Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee. The MVC organized a meetings and prepared comments on landscape designs which allowed MassDOT to complete its plans in 2012. When permitting has been completed, it will advertise for construction.
- **Data Collection:** MVC staff conducted traffic counts at 14 locations in Tisbury. Staff conducted Turning Movement Counts (TMCs) at Cronig's Market, Shell Gas Station, Woodland Center, and Radio Shack.

- **Trails Planning:** Working with the Land Bank, the MVC continued to pursue new trail opportunities and protect existing trails.

Water Quality

- **Lagoon Pond:** MVC staff is meeting with the Tisbury Wastewater Committee and Oak Bluffs town officials to review the Lagoon Pond MEP study findings and discuss options.
- **Tashmoo Pond:** The Tashmoo watershed land use/nitrogen loading models for the MEP were completed.
- **Tisbury Channel Dredging:** Together with other members of the Tisbury Dredge Committee, the MVC Water Resource Planner worked on a proposal for eelgrass mitigation of dredge spoils of Tashmoo Channel.
- **Wastewater Management:** In 2012, the MVC continued to provide data for a case study analysis by Wright-Pierce of the wastewater flows within the Lagoon and Tashmoo watersheds to determine how much wastewater nitrogen would need to be removed in order to meet the nitrogen thresholds for these two pond systems. Staff meets regularly with the Tisbury Wastewater Planning Committee to review the case study results and implications and to assist the committee in scoping of consultant work to prepare for planned expansion of the wastewater treatment capability.
- **Community Involvement:** The MVC Water Resource Planner participates on the Tisbury Wastewater Advisory Committee and the Tisbury Dredge Committee.

Regulatory Activities

- **DRI Review:** Of the 19 projects located in Tisbury that were referred to the Commission in 2011:
 - None were denied;
 - Six were approved with conditions (Tisbury Marketplace Theater, Tisbury Farm Market demolition and modification, Cronig's Solar Arrays, Island Fuels Expansion, Rymes Propane, and Grillo/10 State Road);
 - Five were minor modifications to existing DRIs remanded back to the Town without DRI review (VNA Landscaping Modification, Cronig's Kinetic Display, Beach Road Pizza Picnic Tables, M.V. Arena Cell Tower, and Vineyard Electronics Siding);
 - Three were Concurrence Reviews sent back to the Town (Pachico Family Trust, Irie Bites Food Truck, and the Black Dog Pavilion);

- One was withdrawn (Barnes Gas);
- Two are on hold at the applicant's request (Tisbury Wharf Dredge and Island Fuels Modification); and
- Two were still under review at the end of the year (Comcast/NSTAR Hybrid Undersea Cable and Barnes Evelyn Way).

Staff Liaison

- Executive Director Mark London is the main staff liaison with the Tisbury Planning Board.

West Tisbury

Comprehensive Planning

- **Town Master Plan:** The MVC reviewed with the Planning Board measures to advance updating the Town's Master Plan including compiling updated socio-economic data, preparing a series of maps, and extracting responses from West Tisbury residents in past MVC opinion surveys.

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Economic & Demographic Data Updates:** The MVC provided specific economic and demographic information to the Planning Board and Board of Health
- **Affordable Housing:** MVC staff provided a draft outline of goals and objectives as well as roles and responsibilities for the West Tisbury Affordable Housing Committee's review.

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** MVC staff assisted the Planning Board with a variety of maps to aid planning efforts. Maps showing the Mill Pond area and aerial photographs were supplied to the Mill Pond working group.
- **Cemetery Mapping:** MVC staff completed the mapping the 'ancient' section of the cemetery using GPS to locate all headstones present in this area. This data was delivered to the Town's cemetery consultant for inclusion in their software deliverable to the Town of West Tisbury.

Coastal Management

- **234 Middle Line Path** – MVC staff continued to support the Conservation Commission in defense of its denial of a project to armor a coastal bank on the shore of Tisbury Great Pond.

Transportation

• Old County Road/State Road Intersection:

MVC staff is working with the Board of Selectmen and MassDOT to develop and select an alternative design for geometric improvements at the intersection. The project already has project approval at the state level for use of state and federal funding.

• Culvert over Mill Brook: MVC staff is working with the Board of Selectmen on how to maintain the historical integrity of the down-island guardrail, which MassDOT started to replace in 2012.

• Trails Planning: MVC staff secured public access for trail linking Chilmark and West Tisbury trail networks.

• Data Collection: Staff conducted traffic counts at twelve locations in West Tisbury. The MVC conducted Turning Movement Counts at Alley's General Store.

Water Quality

• Water Testing: In cooperation with the West Tisbury Selectmen, Conservation Commission and the Riparian Owners Association, MVC Staff carried out water sampling projects as follows:

- Mill Brook: Conducted regular sampling throughout the summer and fall, 42 samples in seven rounds to assess sources of phosphorus that might impact Mill Pond. Sampling was continued through the fall in order to determine the effects fertilizer from agriculture had on the nitrogen load.

- Tisbury Great Pond: 12 samples in two rounds to build the water quality database for the coming Massachusetts Estuaries Project study
- ### **Massachusetts Estuaries Project:** Staff continued compiling detailed land use data to produce nitrogen loading computer models for the MEP for Tisbury Great Pond.

Regulatory Activities

DRI Review:

- Of the six West Tisbury projects reviewed in 2012:
 - None were denied;
 - One was approved with conditions (Sepiessa Affordable Housing Expansion);
 - Three were minor modifications to existing DRIs remanded back to the town without DRI review (Big Sky Tents Architectural Details, West Tisbury Library Modification to Howes House, South Mountain Company Solar Panels;
 - two were still under review at year's end (Plum Bush Homesite Lot and Verizon Wireless Cell Tower at Doane's)

Staff Liaison

- Senior Planner Bill Veno is the main staff liaison with the West Tisbury Planning Board.



MARtha's VINEYARD COMMISSION

BOX 1447, OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557

508-693-3453, FAX 508-693-7894

INFO@MVCOMMISSION.ORG WWW.MVCOMMISSION.ORG